

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 12, 2010

The County of Los Angeles is asked to support legislation to authorize the Federal government to assist four local water agencies in the planning, design, and construction of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP). GRIP is critical because it will ensure that our region continues to be able to sustainably draw upon groundwater supplies for our drinking water.

For many years, we have operated a program to manage our groundwater supplies that has depended on using imported river water from Northern California and from the Colorado River to replenish the groundwater that is used for drinking. The problem is that imported replenishment water is not available for the foreseeable future and is simply not a reliable source due to a long-term drought, increased Statewide demands, environmental restrictions, and climate change. In addition, imported river water is costly and energy inefficient. Other sources of replenishment water must be developed to replace imported river water or our groundwater supplies will face serious water quality deterioration and depletion.

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ANTONOVICH _____

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GRIP will utilize the Los Angeles County Flood Control District spreading grounds which are critical to the success of the project. The Flood Control District's mission includes not only flood risk management, but also water conservation. The Flood Control District also plays a major role in securing the local water supply through conservation of storm water by directing it to spreading grounds where groundwater is replenished. During non-storm periods, these spreading grounds will accommodate GRIP, which will provide a much needed alternative and untapped source for groundwater replenishment of highly purified recycled water. In short, GRIP will create a reliable, independent, and sustainable source of water for replenishing the groundwater, thereby helping to ensure our residents have an adequate supply of high-quality drinking water in the future. Although the Flood Control District is not a direct financial partner in GRIP, this program would not be feasible without the availability of and accommodations made by the Flood Control District and its spreading grounds.

GRIP benefits all of us and specifically 61 cities in the County of Los Angeles with a combined population of five million Californians—nearly 15 percent of our State's Population—as well as businesses, educational institutions, and government offices. This is truly a Regional Project Legislation needs to be supported to authorize Federal assistance for the GRIP project in order to make this economically viable and to help relieve demand on imported river water from the environmentally sensitive Bay Delta and the Colorado River watershed.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Executive Officer of the Board be directed to send a five-signature letter from the Board of Supervisors in support of GRIP, which also recognizes the participation in GRIP by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation; and that copies of the letter be sent to the Honorable Grace Napolitano and Robb Whitaker, General Manager of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

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